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KINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire.



A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the
State of the Public Health
for the year 1952.

.....

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.	{ I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., (Appointed 19th. August, 1952) { L.N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Resigned 19th. August, 1952)
Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor	{ E.R. CHILLINGFORD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., (Appointed 1st. June, 1952) { J.H.M. JOLLIFFE, A.M.I.S.E., A.M.Inst.B.E., C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., (Resigned 20th. April, 1952)

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hope and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1952 is presented herewith.

Apart from seventy-nine cases of Measles the health of the community remained good in so far as notifiable disease is concerned. During the winter months there were outbreaks of Influenzal colds but nothing in the way of an epidemic occurred.

The interest taken by the Council during the latter months of the year in the possibility of providing piped water throughout the district and the provision of a Refuse Collection Service marked the beginning of a forward-looking movement which was to lead to concrete decisions during 1953 and bring the district into line with the more progressive of Rural Councils. These developments, together with the progress of housing schemes, give us good reason as members of the Council and as officials, to be proud of the success of our efforts to serve the community and raise the level of life and comfort in our own part of the country.

I have been impressed by the friendly co-operative spirit existing among officials and by the confidence which you Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Council place in us, your officers, to carry out our duties conscientiously and impartially.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No. Leominster 95.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	44,472
Population	4,952
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to the Rate Books)	1,505
Rateable Value	£15,476
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£59. 15. 5d.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	83	40	43
(Illegitimate)	10	7	3
Total	93	47	46
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	4	3	1
(Illegitimate)	-	-	-
Total	4	3	1
DEATHS	59	28	31
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	2	1	1
(Illegitimate)	Nil		

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1952.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	18.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.3
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	0.81
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	0.35
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) ..	11.9
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..	21.5
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	27.6

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

CLINICS.

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district :-

Child Welfare Centre : In the Church Hall, Kington, on alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

Children are referred to the Ear Nose and Throat, Eye, Paediatric and Tuberculosis Clinics in Hereford as and when required.

I am indebted to Mr. E.R. Chillingford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The greater part of the area is dependent on wells, springs and private estate supplies; the majority of the wells being of shallow depth. No case of serious shortage arose, but at Huntington considerable difficulty was experienced on a number of occasions in keeping an uninterrupted flow of water through the pipeline from the source to the village. The trouble, now occurring more frequently, is bound to get worse as time goes on, and a decision will have to be made regarding this supply.

The scheme for the village of Pembrige reached a critical stage at the end of the year with the holding of a Public Inquiry into the Shobdon Scheme as a whole. The result of the findings of the Ministry's Inspector is awaited with considerable interest not only by the Department but throughout the District generally.

Twenty-two samples were taken during 1952. Of these, nine were satisfactory and thirteen were unsatisfactory, and steps were taken to improve these supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The villages of Eardisley and Pembrige are sewered, both using land treatment for disposal. The addition of a post-war housing estate on each of these sewers has placed an added burden on these modes of disposal, and will require to be watched carefully.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

During the year no complaints of any pollution were received.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

At present there are three disposal centres under the control of the Council, and several parish "dumps" which are rapidly reaching the stage when they will have to be cleared, and prohibited from further use. It is pleasing to note that one such "dump" was so treated during 1952. It is anticipated that a collection scheme will be in operation throughout the District before another year has passed.

RODENT CONTROL.

A survey of the district was re-commenced during the year, although once again a change of Rodent Operators occurred with consequent interruption of the survey. Treatment has been carried out where necessary and gratifying results have been achieved. In addition to private and business premises, the Council's refuse tips and sewers also receive routine attention.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	14	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	2	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	6	8	-	-
TOTAL	19	24	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS. Visits made in connection with :-

Council House Repairs	..	..	..	96
Housing Acts	..	..	..	146
Nuisances and Complaints		..	..	31
Food Premises	..	..	..	14
Building Byelaws	..	..	..	76
Water Supplies	..	..	..	47
New Housing Sites	..	..	..	96
Water Samples taken	..	..	..	35
Milk Samples taken	..	..	..	64
Disinfections	..	..	..	10
Refuse	..	..	..	18
Sewerage	..	..	..	24
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	85
Total				<u>742</u>

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	..	..	4
Statutory	..	..	3
Complied with	..		4

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

During the year 24 houses were completed on the housing sites, and work had commenced on a further twelve houses. Three new sites are in process of being negotiated for the erection of four houses on each.

Four houses were completed by private enterprise and at the end of the year there was still a waiting list for licences to build.

Five applications under Part 2 of the Housing Act, 1949., were under consideration during the year, one being subsequently withdrawn.

Complaints as to unsatisfactory housing accommodation were dealt with as they arose.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Fourteen inspections of food premises were made and advice given as to improvements required.

50 lbs. fore quarter beef were found to be unfit by reason of bone taint and the necessary condemnation certificate issued.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	5	8	6	7	1	-	-	-	27
Measles	1	15	26	34	2	-	1	-	79
Dysentery	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	-	6

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation and number who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection subsequent to primary immunisation at an earlier age, during the 12 months ended 31st. December, 1952.

Age at date of final injection.				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
15	30	17	62	84

The Registrar General regrets that owing to a reduction in the sources of information available for estimating local populations under 15 years of age for County Districts, it will no longer be possible to supply estimates of such populations.

Population figures under 15 have been supplied in the past mainly to provide a basis for estimating the proportion of the child population in the area which had been immunised against diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1952 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of twenty-one males and twenty-three females who normally reside within the district.

During the year one pulmonary case who formerly lived in the district returned and five new cases were notified, four on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period two persons suffering from Tuberculosis left the district and four recovered.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	2	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	4	6	10
Coronary disease, angina	2	5	7
Hypertension with heart disease ..	-	2	2
Other heart disease	5	9	14
Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum . ..	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6
All other accidents	4	-	4
All causes			59

